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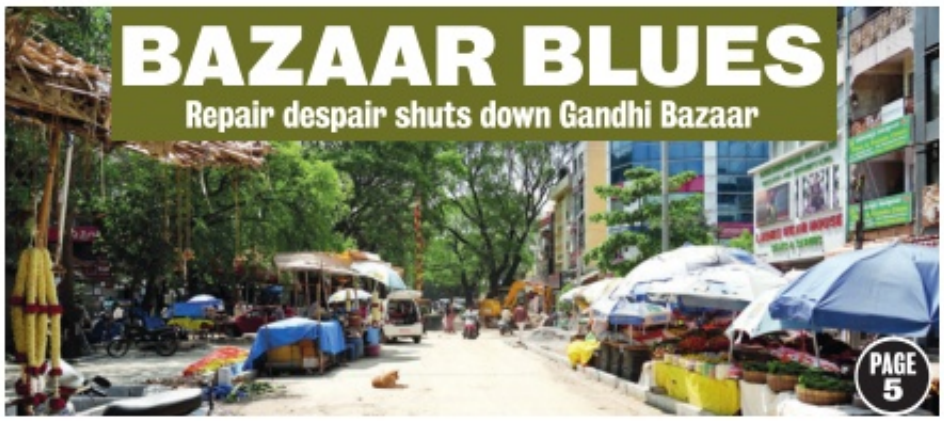
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 70% Light Rain Showers Sensex 60,130 | Nifty 17,769 | Gold 60,022 | Silver 73,920 | Dollar 82.01 | Euro 90.01 | GBP 101.68

CODE BREAKERS

Metro users lap up QR code mode

PAGE 3



BAZAAR BLUES

Repair despair shuts down Gandhi Bazaar

PAGE 5

Stepping out of the house? We suggest you check the traffic advisory of the day as the road you want to hit is probably taken already — and that too by VVIPs

POLL JAMMIN'

Citizens say weekend or non peak hour rallies would be more welcome

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It used to take Sugandha just one hour to get to the office from home. But these days, there is no guarantee when she can make it. As elections near, the cavalcade of VVIPs have taken over the city's roads and commuters like Sugandha have no option but to make way.

On Tuesday, we had a plethora of important persons passing by -- the traffic police had issued an advisory related to VVIP movement in the city. As per the advisory, On May 2 between 3 pm and 7 pm, the traffic police had asked commuters to stay off particular highways and use alternate routes to ensure traffic flow.

The areas where traffic was restricted were Old Airport Road, Cambridge Layout Road, Dickenson Road, Cubbon Road, ASC Centre, D'Souza Circle, Vellara Junction, Laskar Hosur Road, Anepalya, Adugodi Main Road up to Silk Board, Dr Marigowda Road, Madivala Main Road, Sarjapur Junction, Silk Board Junction, Outer Ring Road, and Tavarekere Junction.

That is pretty much the whole

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

A scene on Tuesday during Home Minister Amit Shah's road show from Adugodi to Koramangala

"Even if not a total restriction on road shows, there should be some form of regulation. It should not be a daily ordeal

– S Murthy

Plea to keep it free & fair

Demand to keep BBMP chief out of election duties gathers steam

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Social activists and politicians are raising the clamour for the transfer of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the District Election Officer for Bengaluru Urban. Insisting that he has failed to discharge his duties well while appointing electoral registration officers, they question the logic behind appointing Giri Nath as the District Election Officer.

Their demand is this: The Election Commission must either remove him from the post of District Election Officer or transfer to another department till the State Assembly elections are completed. The activists BM spoke to pointed to the fact that Tushar Giri Nath's involvement was shown in the appointment of a private agency, Chilume, to collect voters' data.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had lodged a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer last November seeking action against the BBMP Chief Commissioner and others for their alleged involvement in the voters' data scam.

"We demand the Election Commission remove the BBMP Chief Commissioner from the duty of District Election Officer. We cannot expect him to discharge his duties in a free and fair manner," said Veeresh BH, a RTI activist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Carnatic rhythms

Grab the chance to attend a workshop on Sampradaya Bhajana Paddhati being conducted by Vid Vrinda Acharya, a renowned and accomplished Carnatic vocalist. The workshop will help you explore the history and background of Bhajana Padhati and learn Dhyana Shlokas and Todaya Mangalam, singing to the accompaniment of mridanga. The workshop is to be held both in person and online.
Where: Ananya Sabhangana, 4th Main, Malleswaram; When: May 5, 6, 7; 6 pm to 7:30 pm

02 Musical fun

Here's a chance for your kids to attend a unique music appreciation interactive workshop called Music and Me@IME. The workshop aims to expose children in the age group of 8-12 years to various facets of Indian music exhibited in the museum and help them understand the fundamentals of genres. It is facilitated by Kavya Srinivasan, and also intends to spark curiosity about instruments and their functioning.
Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar 7th Phase; When: May 9–14; 11 am to 3 pm

03 Classical notes

Kala Premi Foundation, a registered charitable trust dedicated to the promotion of greater awareness of arts and culture presents Vidushi Tylambal Krishanan Memorial Music Workshop. The workshop is based on Dasarapadas, Devaranamas and Sugama Sangeetha in Carnatic style. It will be conducted by Vid Pustakam Ramaa. **Where: Guruskool, #1, Abhishek Complex, 17th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleswaram When: May 8 to 13; 11 am to 1 pm**

Gasping for air post covid? Could be asthma

City doctors see increase in number of breakthrough lung infections after covid-19, causing coughing fits, shortness of breath among citizens

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Covid cases have been a worrying factor for the last three years. However, the doctors in the city say that there has been a spike in asthma cases post covid.

Dr Sunil Kumar K, Lead Consultant - Interventional Pulmonology, Aster CMI Hospital, told Bangalore Mirror that there has been a worrying trend in the aftermath of covid-19: an increase in asthma cases.

"It is no secret that covid-19 attacks the respiratory system, and studies suggest that it can lead to lasting lung damage. This damage can manifest in the form of asthma, which is a chronic respiratory condition that affects millions of people worldwide. Additionally, with the rise of the XBB variant and the increasing number of breakthrough infections, we are seeing more cases of post-covid asthma," he said.

A 35-year-old woman had recently contracted covid-19 and experienced mild symptoms. However, a few weeks later, she began to experience severe shortness of breath and coughing fits. Upon examination, she was diagnosed with post-covid asthma, he added.

"With proper medication and management of her triggers, she has been able to control her symptoms and lead a normal life. This case highlights the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of post-covid asthma," he explained. Other experts added that the virus is known to infect the airways of the lungs, making them more vulnerable to inflammation.

Experts say that the covid-19 virus is known to infect the airways of the lungs, making them more vulnerable to inflammation

> **"It is no secret that covid-19 attacks the respiratory system, and studies suggest that it can lead to lasting lung damage**
> – Dr Sunil Kumar K

Dr Vasunethra Kasaragod (Consultant - Pulmonology, Manipal Hospital, Millers Road) said, "Asthma is a respiratory disease with inflammation in the airways due to exposure to an allergic substance that we inhale. If we see classical asthma patients, they have an allergy to inhaled allergens like pollen and dust mites, or it could even be the pollution around us. With covid-19 coming into the picture, the virus is known to infect the airways of the lungs."

He informed that during the covid wave, as a pulmonologist, he has seen that patients developed typical symptoms of asthma like wheezing, coughing with phlegm, and breathlessness after the infection. Many times, the symptoms persist for a long time, even after the infection has subsided. So, they behaved like typical post-viral, or in this case, post-covid bronchitis.

Furthermore, Dr Padma Sundaram (Consultant - Pulmonology and Interventional Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road) said that asthma cases are rising post-covid due to a phenomenon called post-viral hyper-reactive airways, especially in predisposed atopic individuals.

"This, along with indoor sensitization to house dust mites during lockdown and working from home, has contributed to the increase. Currently, the absence of social distancing and unmasking among the general public, combined with weather changes, has increased viral infection rates. To reduce the morbidity associated with asthma, we need to practice masking, early diagnosis, and appropriate treatment," she said.

Doctors say that the best treatment of asthma includes inhalers and antihistamines. Dr Kasargod added that asthma prevention mainly involves identifying the main culprit or main trigger which causes the asthma symptoms. "The main treatment for asthma remains inhalers, which could include inhaled corticosteroids and bronchodilators, which help reduce the symptoms associated with it," he said.

May it be all about mothers' mental health

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The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has launched several new initiatives and projects for maternal mental health in honour of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month on May 3.

According to experts, mental health disorders affect up to one in five women during pregnancy or in the first year after childbirth. However, new and expectant mothers face various challenges when seeking mental healthcare, such as a lack of knowledge about where to get support, an inability to recognise psychological distress in oneself, transportation issues, financial constraints, and hesitation and stigma about accessing help.

NIMHANS will come up with studies with regard to maternal mental health. One of the studies that will be conducted in the month of May is Community Health Interventions with Music Engagement (CHIME) for mothers and the other is on childbirth-related trauma in obstetric services in Karnataka, funded by the Department of Health Research, Government of India.

In addition to this, NIMHANS is collaborating with Haplocare, founded by maternal mental health advocate Sonali Mohanty Quantius, to provide digital solutions to obstetricians for evaluating mental health among mothers in their clinics and to support women in self-assessment.

The professors from the department of psychiatry at NIMHANS revealed that, along with Haplocare, the institute will organise a free online seminar on Tuesday, to celebrate World Maternal Mental Health Day under the theme 'Stronger Together'.

"The seminar aims to encourage women to talk about maternal mental health issues, seek support, promote advocacy, and raise awareness about perinatal mental health problems. The event includes a listening circle where women with lived experience of mental health issues will share their stories, and mental health experts will teach simple techniques to manage symptoms," said a professor.

The mental health experts that will be involved in teaching techniques will include yoga practitioner, paediatrician and lactation consultant, music therapist, and perinatal psychologist.

Metro users crack code

QR ticket sales in metro triple in five months

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Inset: A QR code scanning device; Over 2.1 lakh people had used the facility in November last year

The QR ticketing facility provided by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has seen a massive rise in the number of commuters using it since its introduction. Over 2.1 lakh people had used the facility in November last year when the ticketing system was first introduced. The number has risen to 6.6 lakh in March, tripling in a span of five months. However, the majority of commuters (over 60 per cent) continue to use the smart cards which the BMRCL introduced in 2011. Records from the BMRCL show that over 35 per cent of commuters use the token to travel, while the remaining 5 per cent have begun to use QR codes.

Abdul Razaq, a frequent user of the metro, said that the QR ticketing system has made his travel much more convenient. "You don't have to wait in long queues anymore, either to secure a token or to recharge your smart card. The QR tickets can be acquired easily with just a few steps without hassle and one cannot worry about losing their ticket," he said.

The system was introduced last year in November, allowing passengers to buy single-journey transit tickets through WhatsApp or the Namma Metro application. WhatsApp had then said that the facility was the first-ever QR ticketing service being provided on the application. The procedure is fairly simple – a WhatsApp chatbot named Bhagya, who has the ability to converse in both Kannada and English, needs to be informed regarding the source and destination stations. After this, the chatbot churns out the fare, which also has a discount of 5 per cent One can then confirm the ticket and buy it through various modes of online transactions.

Commuters of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) have said that such a facility is necessary with buses, too. "I tend to not carry cash with me anymore. It would be of great help if the BMTC also introduced a ticketing system that involves buying them online. The hassle to get the right amount of change from the bus conductors is a constant occurrence. This would also be avoided if they introduced an alternative," said Nidhi Nagraj, another commuter.

> **"You don't have to wait in long queues to secure a token or recharge your smart card. The QR tickets can be acquired easily** Abdul Razaq, commuter

Currently, one can only buy various passes provided by the BMTC through the Tummoc application. Tickets, on the other hand, need to be bought with cash from the conductor. "I recently travelled by the metro to Byappanahalli and was hoping to get the feeder bus to reach KR Puram metro station. However, I did not have the fare, Rs 10, in cash with me, and the conductor said they would not accept UPI payments. I tried to look for an ATM but could not find one, leading me to take an auto. This could have been avoided if BMTC also provided e-tickets," said Gourav Mahesh, also a commuter.

Aged man dies, kin alleges negligence

An aged man, admitted to a city hospital after being hit by a bike, has died. It has been alleged that his death was caused by 'negligence' of NIMHANS doctors. Ganesh, a native of Bellary, was a 60-year-victim. He was hit by a bike when he was walking. Doctors at NIMHANS allegedly refused to treat him because there were no beds available. As a result, his family members took him to a private hospital where the treatment was unsuccessful and Ganesh passed away. In the incident, the two people on the biker were also injured and admitted to a hospital for treatment.

A case has been registered at Wilson Garden Traffic Station regarding the incident. —BMB

Student murder: 2 more arrested

Police arrested two more people in connection with the killing of a student at REVA university in northeast Bengaluru.

Bhaskar Jetty, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student at the university close to Yelahanka, died on April 28 after being stabbed during the cultural fest of the college. Anil Kumar M, who stabbed Jetty, and Shrangamitra HD, another student at the university, were both taken into custody by the police. Shrangamitra, 19, is from Mudigere, Chikkamagaluru, while Anil, 20, is from Bidarahalli in east Bengaluru.

Bharatesh NA, 20, a second suspect in the alleged murder and assault, was taken into custody by the police on Saturday. —BMB

'Partial occupancy' sparks concern

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Home buyers are demanding that the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) not deviate from rules pertaining to the occupancy certificate (OC). They are requesting that the K-RERA not allow or facilitate civic bodies to issue partial occupancy certificates to builders.

According to Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, one of the important reasons why RERA Karnataka failed to provide justice to home buyers is the dilution of the RERA Act 2016 and incorrect definition of RERA Rules. "Some of the important deviations that we have seen are with respect to OC and formation of allottees association. The RERA Act recognises Occupancy Certificate, whereas RERA Karnataka introduced Partial OC," said Dhananjaya Padmanachar.

He stated that the Act speaks about the formation of allottees association, and the expectation was that rules would define under which Act the association of allottees should be formed.

"Because of these two important dilutions in the rules, home buyers in Karnataka are impacted very badly. Until the OC is obtained, the maintenance of the apartment is supposed to be handled by the promoter themselves. But because of the introduction of Partial OC in RERA Rules, the promoters are passing on their responsibility for maintenance to flat owners," he said.

He added that the K-RERA rules pertaining to the formation of allottees association are not clear. "The builders are not following Section 17 of the Act. It states that the common areas need to be transferred to allottees association by executing conveyance deeds," he said.

Naval Veteran Commander Surendra expressed a similar opinion. "The builders get a plan sanctioned from the authorities to construct three to four towers (in three to four phases) of the apartment complex but get a partial occupancy certificate without completing the whole project. We cannot expect a builder to complete all four phases (towers) at once, but they must obtain the OC only after completing the entire project. It will facilitate home buyers to avail facilities like gym, piped water," he said.

On June 3, 2022, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary wrote a letter to the Chief Secretaries of States to submit a comparison report on the dilution of rules by the RERAs of the respective states. Last August, the Supreme Court asked all state governments to reply to the deviations/variations pointed out in the implementation of the RERA Act 2016 and corresponding rules in their jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Housing Department Under Secretary (RERA) Hemavathy R stated, "We have sent the reply to the union housing department stating that the state government is considering the amendment to the K-RERA Act pertaining to the partial occupancy certificate issue."

What's with the pause?

Development works at Chikkabasti Lake come to an abrupt halt

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The BBMP had previously announced the development of six lakes, one of which is the Chikkabasti Lake, at the cost of Rs 16 crore; development work involved deepening, creating drains for diversions, and more

Regular visitors to the Chikkabasti Lake have complained that the lake's development works have abruptly come to a halt. The municipal body, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had previously announced the development of six lakes, one of which is the Chikkabasti Lake, at the cost of Rs 16 crore. The development work involved deepening, creating drains for diversions, fencing, formation of a bund across the boundary, inlet and outlet works, along with pathway formation. The Chikkabasti Lake, in particular, had been allotted Rs 1.8 crore.

Uday Kumar, a regular walker at the lake, said that while the desilting works were taking place, they were suddenly stopped, leaving a large portion of the lake still covered with silt and unattended. Along with this, the pathway for visitors has not been adequately developed, he told Bangalore Mirror.

"The pathway is filled with stones. They have not installed interlocking slabs or any infrastructure to enable better walking. The works began in June last year and went on until February, but since then, there has been no trace of the responsible authorities," said Kumar. He noted that grass and other greenery had begun to grow in the silt-covered portion of the lake. "The monsoons are soon approaching. It will make it much harder for the authorities to complete the desilting work," he said.

> **"They have not installed interlocking slabs to enable better walking. The works began in June last year and went on until February**
>
> – Uday Kumar, regular walker

Baali Raghottam, a lake activist from KR Puram, said that summer is the best season for desilting lakes. "If not done during this period, it is very tough for authorities to succeed. For example, the Seegehalli Lake desilting was started over five years ago, and it has still not been entirely desilted due to the disruption made by monsoons.

Even the Gangashetty lake in KR Puram is still being desilted.

Over four pumps are regularly used to carry out the work. It will also increase the cost of the development work," he said.

He added that January to May is the ideal period for desilting to be taken up.

(Rotary) signals for change

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Police are experimenting with rotary traffic signaling at High Grounds junction; the KR Circle experimental model is being followed

City police are currently experimenting with rotary traffic signaling at High Grounds junction. The remodelling of the junction is in progress, and police say that the new traffic system will be in place soon. A senior police official said, "The proposed signal-free junction towards the airport begins from High Grounds junction. As this junction witnesses heavy vehicular movement, we want to ease the traffic by allowing vehicles to use the rotary signal method to cross the junction."

Earlier, when the airport shifted towards Devanahalli, this junction was remodelled as a Yield junction. Though this model worked initially, it had to be removed due to an increase in vehicular density. Now, police are planning to remodel the entire circle and make it like a rotary junction. An official said, "Though the work was to be completed long back, it got delayed due to the election process. However, it has picked up pace again and will soon be completed. Earlier, vehicles coming from Basaveshwara circle used to get stuck at the traffic signal, and this was affecting the swift movement of traffic. Now, we are hoping that the rotary will ease the traffic at this junction."

Police say that they are following the KR Circle experimental model. However, KR Circle has been revamped multiple times with various designs. In fact, it was one of the first junctions to become signal-free when traffic signals were replaced with a rotary system where vehicles could go in turns. However, as this system failed to work, traffic signals were brought back, and the rotary was removed. Then even that was removed, and recently, cobblestones were laid at the junction. "KR Circle has been undergoing multiple changes with every traffic experiment being conducted there. Earlier, there used to be a huge circle. Then, KR Circle (from Subedar Chatram Road) was made one-way. Then it was made bi-directional after cutting down trees and widening the road. Pedestrian underpasses were constructed so that they need not cross the road and obstruct traffic. Later, a vehicular underpass was constructed near Cubbon Park Road so that vehicles coming from Vidhana Soudha could go directly towards Nrupatunga Road to avoid KR Circle traffic. Later, the median height was increased so that jaywalkers could be restricted," said Sandeep R, a regular user.

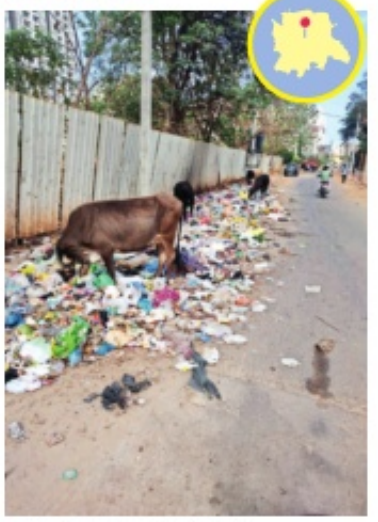
KR Circle, one of the most congested traffic spots in Bangalore, was turned into a signal-free road in 2009. BBMP spent almost Rs 1 crore on creating a rotary system as well as two underpasses; one each at Maharani College junction and KR Circle junction. The construction of underpasses at Maharani College had enabled two-way signal-free vehicular movement on Palace Road between State Bank of Mysuru Circle and Basaveshwara Circle. The rotary at KR Circle was created by the traffic engineering cell of BBMP's major road department, which happened to be the first designed rotary in the city.

Now, road users say that only time will tell whether the High Grounds junction rotary will ease traffic or go the KR circle way in becoming a place of multiple experiments.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage-laden
Gollahalli



The Gollahalli area near Shikaripalya is full of garbage, making it difficult for residents.

Roadblock
Tipu's Summer Palace

The footpath in front of Tipu's Summer Palace is blocked by trees and stones, hindering walkers.

Pavement peril
Old Airport Road

The poor condition of the pavement on Old Airport Road near Diamond District forces pedestrians to walk on the road.

AI-enabled teleradiology pushes for faster scan reports

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The anxiety caused by the delay in getting the diagnostic report after his friend fell ill, prompted Bengalurean Kalyan Sivasailam to do something to fix the gaps. The tense wait of that time led to the birth of a new age AI-enabled teleradiology platform that aims to address the shortage of radiologists in the country to enable faster, more accurate, and more efficient diagnostic reporting.

Usually reports take over 24 hours to be generated, but with this platform it is possible to get the diagnostic reports in two-three hours. In emergency cases, the turnaround time is 12 minutes.

Sivasailam's friend Syed Ahmed was later diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. But the wait for the report was too long. So he set about creating the platform, 5C Network, that cuts waiting time for a scan report, removes the error rates in radiology, and rewires the healthcare ecosystem for speed, accuracy, and efficiency.

Sivasailam said, "We use cutting-edge technology and world-class AI software to ensure that hospitals or diagnostic centres receive accurate and quality reports within two-three hours. Our platform is designed to leverage machine learning algorithms and automated workflows that enable our team of experienced radiologists to quickly review and interpret medical images, allowing for faster turnaround times without compromising on the quality of the report."

Scans like X-Ray, MRI, CT Scan, PET CT are done at the centres.

Sivasilam added, "The platform is teleradiology based, so the entire process is virtual and AI-enabled. The customer support team is available 24*7 to assist if the users face any issues while using our platform."

The start up has also been helping in addressing the shortage of radiologists in the country. According to recent studies, the radiologist to patient ratio in India is 1:1,00,000 compared to 4.8:10,000 in the UK and 10:10,000 in the US. The shortage of radiologists has led to an extremely longer turnaround time for radiology reports, leaving patients in physical and mental agony. This platform has helped bring several radiologists together.

Dr. Jagadish Hiremath, Chairman at AASRA Hospitals, said, "India's healthcare sector has made remarkable strides in recent years, with hospitals equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge technologies. However, a major challenge that the industry continues to face is the acute shortage of radiologists in the country. This shortage not only leads to delayed diagnosis and treatment but also puts a strain on the entire healthcare system.

The need of the hour is to address this gap and ensure that every patient receives accurate and timely diagnosis, regardless of their location or socio-economic background. We need innovative solutions that leverage the power of technology to bridge the gap between supply and demand of radiology services. It is only then that we can truly provide precision healthcare to all."

Gandhi Bazaar blues

Bustling market stays shut to protest unscientific, unending road work by BBMP that's uprooted lives of bizmen, shoppers

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Everyday life was on the fritz in Gandhi Bazaar on Tuesday due to a day-long bandh called by Gandhi Bazaar Traders' Association to protest against unfriendly and unscientific road repair work taken up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) over eight months ago.

Nearly 500 shops, including popular food joints such as Vidyarthi Bhavan, Anand Adyar Bhavan, and Udupi Sri Krishna Bhavan, remained closed as a mark of dissent against the ongoing white topping work.

Traders say the 40 feet wide road has now been reduced to around 20 feet, leading to a lot of difficulties for the traders, residents, and shoppers alike.

"Looking at the increasing number of vehicles every day, the road should have been widened. However, BBMP has narrowed down the road to half of its original width and is planning to turn it into a one-way street. Shoppers will now have to park their vehicles nearly a kilometre away and walk," said M Venkatesh, president of the traders' association.

Traders say while they are not against street vendors, these changes will impact their business. Moreover, footpaths should be free of any obstruction so pedestrians can walk easily.

"We had approached the court and after hearing us, the court ordered the BBMP to submit the drawing of the project and proceed only after seeking permission. We are waiting for further development

All famous eateries, shops were shut at the road-work-hit Gandhi Bazaar on Tuesday

Residents and shop owners say that despite their objections the authorities are hell bent on pedestrianising the street and have informed locals that vehicles on the stretch will be allowed only between 9 pm and 7 am.

"There are more than a hundred residents on the stretch apart from shop owners. If they bring the 9 pm to 7 am rule, we will have to move our vehicles in the morning so we can go to offices later. Having said that, none of the senior officials have come forward and given any clarity on functionality of the new road. We have reached out to BBMP multiple times for the tender document and DPR of the project. We have only been misled," said Guru prasad, a resident of the area and secretary of Heritage Basavangudi residents Welfare Forum.

Locals also say while they have received partial relief after the recent High Court's order on the issue, the civic body has refused to budge.

"We had approached the court and after hearing us, the court ordered the BBMP to submit the drawing of the project and proceed only after seeking permission. We are waiting for further development, said another resident.

BBMP yet to take action for tree damage

White topping work on Gandhi Bazaar Main Road was under the scanner after as many as 80 avenue trees on the one-km-long stretch were found to be damaged.

A tree assessment conducted by the residents of the area a couple of months ago showed that all the avenue trees on the stretch are prone to falling due to extensive root damage caused by the construction work. The report said trees are surviving on less than 40 per cent of their root system intact.

Locals say while they have been pushing BBMP's Forest cell to take action against the contractor and engineers responsible for executing the project, the civic body wing has only been dilly-dallying.

"Even after two months of constant complaints, the civic body has failed to take any action. The DCF has refused to take any responsibility for the damage that trees have sustained. The same contractor is still executing the project.

We have visited the DCF's office multiple times requesting for a copy of the FIR filed against the contractor, but we have returned empty handed," said a member of People of Basavanagudi, a collective of residents, traders, and footpath vendors of the area.

Fiery Kohli fined again after IPL post-match row

#New Delhi

Indian cricket star Virat Kohli was fined on Tuesday for the second time in this IPL season after a post-match altercation with former national team-mate Gautam Gambhir.

Both were docked their entire match fee, the Indian Premier League said, while Naveen-ul-Haq was fined 50 percent of his for breaching the league's code of conduct.

Kohli and Afghan bowler Naveen were seen having sharp words on the field during a tense match between Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants on Monday.

Kohli, who has often run into trouble with his aggressive approach, had to be restrained by opposition batsman Amit Mishra during the match. Bangalore eventually won by 18 runs.

Afterwards, Lucknow's Kyle Mayers had to be led away from an exchange with Kohli before other players tried unsuccessfully to stop a visibly furious Gambhir, Lucknow's team mentor, from confronting him.

Kohli took to social media on Tuesday with a cryptic Instagram post quoting a famed Roman emperor and philosopher: "Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth. - Marcus Aurelius."

Gambhir and Kohli, who played together when India won the 2011 World Cup, had a shouting match before Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis intervened.

The former national team-mates were also involved in an ugly on-field exchange in a 2013 IPL match.

This was Kohli's second offence this season after he was fined 10 percent of his match fee for his conduct during Bangalore's loss to Chennai Super Kings last month. **AFP**

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I, Nilesh Hemchand Karani #802, Ronit Arcade, Zaveri Baug Road, Kandivali West Mumbai, have changed my name to Nillesh Hemchand Karani for all purposes notarized from L Puttaraju on 02.05.2023

I, Anisha Sunil Jadhav W/o Mohasin N Sangolli, R/o C 204, Smd Altezz, Belathur Colony, Kadugodi , B'luru-560067 have changed my name to Anisha Mohasin Sangolli Affidavit Dt.02/05/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M V, B'luru

I, Sathisha Ramamurthy S/o Ramamurthy R/o 15/16 , Sri Venkateshwara Nigaya 3rd Cross , Jayanagar 1st Block , B'lore-560001 have changed my name to Satish ramamurthy

I Pinky Gaud H W/O, Govind Prasad Sharma R/o 7, Shanti Nivas, Balaji Layout, Anand Nagar, Rt Nagar, Bangalore-560032. have changed my name to Pinky Sharma

I, Shivani Burman R/o #606 Sparta 1 , Prestige Acropolis , Hosur Main Road Kormangala B'lore-560029 have changed my name to Shivani Burman Sharma for all purposes.

I, Shailaja Sathisha W/o Satish Ramamurthy R/o 15/16 , Sri Venkateshwara Nigaya 3rd Cross , Jayanagar 1st Block , B'lore-560001 have changed my name to Shailaja Ramaiah .

I Kuresh Yusufali Laxmidhar R/o #101, GF, Calvin Royal Residency, Bohra layout B'luru -560083 have changed my name to Quresh Yusufali Kapadia

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I, HAREESH BOMMATHANAHALLI, Residing at No. 869, 26th Main Road, 4th Cross, Btm Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560076, have changed my minor daughter's name from DHRUTHI BOMMATHAN to DHRUTHI RAO, vide affidavit dated 28/05/2023, sworn before notary DEVAKI M, Bangalore.

I , Mary Nirmala Sheela Baluguri W/O Thammaiah Buttianda Nanjappa R/O 1906, 21-A Main , sector-2, HSR layout, Bengaluru, 560102, Karnataka, India. Have changed my name to Sheela Buttianda Thammaiah and in short as Sheela B.T

I, Lalu Aiyappa W/o, Late P.P Aiyappa R/o Bengooru Village, Chermbane Post, Kodagu, Karnataka 571201 have changed my name to Thangamma for all purposes. Both Lalu Aiyappa & Thangamma are same & one person only.

I, Sarwan Kumar Thevar Mani Thevar R/o #02, 5th cross, Anjananagar, magadi road, viswaneedam post, B'luru 560091 have changed my name to Sarwan Kumar Thever affidavit Dt.02/05/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Nihal Tejas Sulagodu S/o Sarveshwara Sulagodu G R/o Flat.216, SLV HM Signature, HBR Lyt, 4th block, 1st stage, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Nihal Sulagodu affidavit Dt.02/05/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Sinimadula Likhita W/O, Muramalla Ratnakar R/o Address: Apartment No.6, Door No.7, 4rth Floor, 1st Cross, Bhadrappa Garden, Bhadrappa Layout, Banglore -560092 have changed my name to Sinimadula Likhitha

I Ranjeeta Kumari W/O, Raj Kumar R/o # B5-601,Provident Welworth City, Marasandra, Dodda Tumkur, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka, 561203,have changed my name to Ranjeeta Raj for all purposes.

I Mohammed Hussian S/o Irfan Shariff R/o No:- 872 1st CRS Shamanna Layout Nayandanahalli main road Bangalore 39 have changed my name to Mohammed Hussain for all purpose.

I, Balakrishnan s/o Ravi chandran R/o No 34 M.M Lane, City market, Bengaluru 560002 have changed my name to Balakrishnan Ravichandran affidavit Dt.02/05/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Siddarth Sathisha S/o Satish Ramamurthy R/o 15/16 , Sri Venkateshwara Nigaya 3rd Cross , Jayanagar 1st Block , B'lore-560001 have changed my name to Siddarth Satish .

I, Anusha.M, D/o Manjunath N, R/a #3658, 5th cross, Gayathrinagar B'lore-21. I have completed my ICSC class X. The marks issued by council for the Indian School certif icate examination New Delhi. In the said marks card my father name mentioned as N.Manjunath instead of Manjunath.N, Likewise my mother name mentioned as Y.A.Kavitha instead of Kavitha Y.A. I hereby declare that, N.Manjunath and Manjunath.N, both names are belongs to my father only and Y.A.Kavitha and Kavitha.Y.A both names are belongs to my mother only. vide affidavit dated 02-05-23 sworn before notary D.G Shanthappa B'lore.

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KAUSHIK JN

Pick up the pace

Amit Shah along with Tejasvi Surya and Sridhar Reddy of BTM Layout constituency during a roadshow from Adugodi to Koramangala; AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a public meeting in Mandya district on Tuesday

What B'luru thinks about the free ride promise

Congress' promise to provide free travel to all women stirs debate over its effectiveness; road transport corporations in K'taka had made losses worth Rs 4,540 crore until March 2021

The Shakti scheme intends to provide free travel to all women in the entire state

The K'taka government had to release Rs 1,059 crore to the road transport corporations after reporting losses

Abhijeet Kabad
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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POLL VAULT

With the state elections around the corner on May 10, each political party is releasing its political manifesto. The Congress party released their manifesto on Tuesday titled 'Sarva Janangada Shantiya Thota,' which means a peaceful garden for all communities. It was released in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, state unit chief DK Shivakumar, and CLP leader Siddaramaiah.

The manifesto of the Congress includes a promise similar to that of the New Delhi government. The Shakti scheme intends to provide free travel to all women in the entire state on the regular Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had promised the same on Thursday during his election speech in Adyar, Mangaluru.

Meanwhile, citizens and BMTC drivers seem divided on the scheme announced by the party.

Gladys Prabhakar, a resident of Thanisandra said, "It's a good incentive by Congress; this will definitely be helpful for all the low paid women wage labourers who need to spend a penny for travel to work. This gives more potential for women to go out and work".

Many residents appreciated the idea and added that it would ease their daily travel finances.

Shamshad, a resident of Kodigehalli said, "I travel to work every day, paying Rs 280 for a weekly pass. I travel from Kodigehalli police station to Majestic. With food prices and cylinder prices on the rise, it's getting very difficult for daily living. I hope Congress comes to power and the scheme is implemented. It will really ease my daily travel finances."

However, the four road transport corporations (RTCs) in Karnataka had made losses worth Rs 4,540 crore until March 2021. The dues owed to employees had reached Rs 1,717.24 crore. The Karnataka government had then released Rs 1,059 crore to the road transport corporations. According to the order, KSRTC received Rs 330 crore and BMTC received Rs 279 crore. Despite the government releasing funds for employees' salaries, the BMTC was estimating a revenue loss of Rs 200 crore.

A BMTC bus driver told Bangalore Mirror that all political parties just make promises. "The students and office-going people vote for the BJP. The workers vote for other parties. But in Karnataka, there is no guarantee that any party will win the majority. So with a coalition government, Congress fulfilling the promises is highly doubtful."

An auto driver said, "Congress should plan well before making such a statement. Giving women free travel will only lead to more losses. Giving long distances on KSRTC is highly unlikely."

Students' efforts: Let's get poll-ready

A group of students from CMR University organised a voter awareness campaign to educate people about the importance of voting ahead of the Assembly elections in Karnataka. The students made posters and placards and took to the streets to reach out to people from different communities and age groups.

The campaign covered key areas of the HRBR Layout and Kalyan Nagar, and the students received positive feedback from the public for their efforts. The students were supported by faculty members and administrators of the college.

Dr Babu Devasenapati, Director, Office of Students Affairs said, "We are thrilled with the success of this campaign. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the public, and we hope that our efforts will have a positive impact on the turnout for the upcoming elections. We believe that every vote counts, and we are proud to have played our part in raising awareness about the importance of voting."

The students encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote on May 10 and thanked the Banaswadi Police Department and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for their support. A student from the CMR University said, "We believe that promoting civic engagement and social responsibility is an essential part of our education, and hence we decided to start the campaign. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the public for our efforts, and we hope that our campaign will encourage more people to participate in the democratic process." **BMB**

PARAS

Choppy chopper weather

These are just some perils on the campaign trails

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With the election fast approaching, netas are skipping road travel and instead preferring to hop on from one place to another via helicopter. However, the chopper's travels may be swifter but fraught with risk.

POLL VAULT

On Tuesday, Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar's chopper had to make an emergency landing after it was hit by a vulture in the sky in Kolar district. Shivakumar was travelling from HAL Airport to Mulbagal to address a political rally. Due to the bird hit, the front glass of the helicopter was damaged and broken.

Meanwhile in Raichur, an army helicopter that was accompanying

Karnataka Congress chief DKS' chopper had to make an emergency landing after it was hit by a vulture in Kolar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chopper in Sindhanur was trapped in the mud for some time due to heavy downpour on Tuesday.

After much effort, the helicopter was taken out of the mud, viral videos showed.

Once the Prime Minister had left in his helicopter after addressing a gathering in Sindhanur, a helicopter that was accompanying it started to take off but got stuck in the mud.

Last month, a chopper carrying BS Yediyurappa had to abort the landing in Jewargi (Kalburagi district) as littered plastic bags came flying near the helipad.

Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar inspects his helicopter that made an emergency landing at the HAL airport after a Kite bird hit the glass of the cockpit, on Tuesday

Mind your language, please!

Taking serious note of the "plummeting level of campaign discourse" during electioneering in Karnataka, the Election Commission on Tuesday asked political parties and their star campaigners to exercise caution and restraint in their utterances and not to vitiate the election atmosphere. The EC advisory came amid the use of barbs such as 'poisonous snake', 'vishkanya' and 'nalayak' by leaders of Congress and BJP against each other in the run-up to the Karnataka assembly elections on May 10. The poll panel also referred to the instances of "inappropriate vocabulary and language" used during the ongoing campaign by persons, "in particular, by those invested with the statutory status of star campaigner".

"Such instances have occasioned various complaints, cross complaints and have also attracted negative media attention," the EC said in a statement.

Campaigning for the May 10 polls is hotting up with the Congress and the BJP being engaged in a war of words. Both Congress and BJP have moved the poll panel seeking action against each other.

The Commission pointed out that recognised national parties and star campaigners enjoy "extra enablements" within the Representation of the People Act.

"It is imperative for all parties and stakeholders to remain within the confines of the Model Code of Conduct and the legal framework in their utterances while campaigning so as to maintain the dignity of the political discourse and not to vitiate the campaign and the election atmosphere," the advisory read. – PTI

Richest candidates

With the candidates declaring their assets in affidavits while filing nomination papers, the BJP's minister and candidate for Hosakote Assembly segment, MTB Nagaraj, is the richest candidate in the fray with the declaration of property worth Rs 1,614.5 crore.

For the 2018 Assembly elections, Nagaraj had declared assets worth Rs 1,060 crore. The total value of the assets owned by Nagaraj and his wife is pegged at Rs 2,607 crore. Nagaraj has shown a total income of Rs 96.84 crore as total income in the years 2021-22. He has Rs 29.12 crore in his savings bank account and Rs 33.08 crore in fixed deposit. He has shown a capital investment of Rs 196.54 crore in MTB estates and properties. He also revealed that his wife, M Shanthakumar, has a capital investment of Rs 127.32 crore in the same company. Nagaraj owns a Land Rover Defender worth Rs 1.65 crore. His wife owns a Porsche worth Rs 1.04 crore. Nagaraj, who dropped out of school in the ninth grade, was one of the prominent Congress leaders who defected to the BJP in 2019.

On the other hand, KPCC president DK Shivakumar, contesting from Kanakapura constituency, has declared Rs 1,214 crore worth of movable and immovable properties. Priyakrishna, a Congress contestant from Govindarajanagar and former MLA, has declared Rs 1,156.83 crore in movable and immovable assets in the affidavit. In 2018, Priyakrishna declared assets worth Rs 1,020 crore.

(With inputs from agencies)

No interim relief to Rahul Gandhi from Gujarat High Court

The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in the 2019 'Modi surname' defamation case. Justice Hemant Prachchhak will pronounce the verdict after vacations. The court refused to grant any interim relief to Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi had moved the Gujarat High Court on April 25 challenging the Surat sessions court order which declined to stay his conviction in the criminal defamation case.

During the hearing on April 29, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Rahul Gandhi, had sought time to produce certain documents on record after which the court adjourned the hearing to May 2. The Surat sessions court had on April 20 rejected Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in the 2019 criminal defamation case.

In his judgement, Additional sessions judge Robin P Mogera had cited Gandhi's stature as an MP and former chief of the country's second-largest political party and said he should have been careful. He cited prima facie evidence and said it transpires that Gandhi made derogatory remarks against PM Narendra Modi. – ANI

Rahul Gandhi speaks at a rally in Karnataka ahead of the elections

Ambulances stuck, commute halted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work-life commute of many citizens. BM spoke to several citizens, whose lives are in a disarray due to the traffic disruptions. They told us about the traffic chaos and disturbances it is causing to their day-to-day life. Some even suggested that politicians should be doing road shows at night rather than doing it in the peak hours.

Ajay Kumar, a commuter, says that there are several marriage halls in the route of one of the road shows and as the hapless families would not have factored in such a disruption, these halls are booked and they cannot postpone a wedding to suit traffic. "People plan for a wedding and venue beforehand and just because some politician is visiting the town it's not possible to postpone the wedding. Another thing I noticed on the road was that ambulances were stuck in traffic for a long time. How come our politicians who promise to work for the people, are so insensitive towards these issues? This is an irony in itself," said Ajay.

People who commute every day to their office say that these rallies and road shows should happen only on weekends.

"There is a big road show happening every other day passing through major arteries of the city. And many other road shows are taking place every day in other parts of the city or its outskirts. All these are causing inconvenience to commuters," said S Murthy.

According to Murthy, there is a need to regulate these road shows. "Even if not a total restriction on road shows, there should be some form of regulation. It should not be a daily ordeal. They may restrict roadshows to weekends or to only those roads that are wide enough to let traffic move undisturbed in at least one direction," added Murthy.

As long as that happens, commuting to work is a stress-laden affair for Sugandha.

"Why would I want to be stuck in traffic for hours and take four hours to reach my office when I can get there in an hour on normal days? It didn't happen in Bengaluru earlier that there were road shows that would block traffic flow for hours, this seems like a new phenomenon that is happening every other day."

'EC must act against BBMP chief commissioner'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Demanding the same, Janata Dal (Secular) Legal Cell president AP Ranganath said that he would initiate legal action if the Election Commission fails to remove the BBMP Chief Commissioner from the District Election Officer's post. "I demand the Election Commission act against the BBMP Chief Commissioner for his alleged involvement in the voters' list data theft case," said Ranganath. KPCC spokesperson Ramesh Babu concurred with Ranganath's views. "The police prepared a report on the voters' list scam but it is vague and does not have full information on the scam. We will file a case in the court seeking action against those responsible for the voters' data theft," said Ramesh Babu.

Emphasising on the need to transfer the BBMP Chief Commissioner to ensure free and fair elections in 28 Assembly constituencies, Congress MLC and former mayor PR Ramesh said that the BBMP Chief Commissioner was involved in many irregularities and allegedly helping BJP candidates. "We will investigate all the scams if Congress comes to power. It is a point to note that the BBMP is the one and only civic body that is without elected representatives for more than two years," said Ramesh.

Right To Information Study Centre managing trustee S Amaresh demanded that the Election Commission remove the BBMP Chief Commissioner from all election-related responsibilities. "The BBMP Chief Commissioner does not have the moral right to continue as the District Election Officer. He should not have accepted the responsibility till the probe into the voters' list scam is completed," said Amaresh.

Blaming rampant corruption among politicians behind the BBMP Chief Commissioner being allowed to continue as the District Election Officer, HM Venkatesh, a social activist from Judicial Layout, said the corrupt politicians and the ruling party want corrupt administrators of officers. "I demand the immediate transfer of the BBMP Chief Commissioner to ensure elections free and fair in Bengaluru," said Venkatesh.

Bangalore Mirror had published a story - Voters' list scam: Why is BBMP chief immune to inquiry? – on November 28, 2022 about how the police failed to act tough against BBMP Chief Commissioner who gave permission to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Institute an NGO on August 20, 2022, to go door-to-door in 28 Assembly constituencies to create awareness and add voters to the voters' list and link Aadhaar Card numbers with the voters' id cards. It has also explained how the BBMP Officers' and Employees' Association was compelled to write a letter to the Regional Commissioner of Revenue Department on the plight of revenue officers who are summoned to police stations for an inquiry in the voters' list data theft case.

HEALTH TIP: The wind-down ritual of making a hot drink gives your brain 30 minutes' notice that you're going to sleep

Apple cider vinegar has a small amount of phosphorus, which keeps bones healthy, so is important in osteoporosis and arthritis

NO CHILD'S PLAY

'Kidfluencer' culture is harming kids in several ways

Parents share content of their children for myriad reasons, including to connect with friends and family, and to seek validation or support. However, some parents also do this for commercial gain. They manage their children as social media "kidfluencers" – allowing them to work with brands to market products to other children (and adults).

Our research, published recently in the M/C Journal, further highlights how the kidfluencer culture opens the door for possible child exploitation and a host of other problems. There is a clear need for regulation in this space – and achieving it will require a considered, collective effort.

YouTube, the babysitter

Speaking to Forbes in 2019, Eyal Baumel, the chief executive of Yoola (a management company which also manages digital child stars), described YouTube as "the most popular babysitter in the world".

Since then, the covid pandemic has prompted a surge in screentime for kids, who are being marketed toys as well as other products normally targeted to adults.

Product lines for kids are big business. In 2021, the global toys market was projected to grow from about US$141 billion to $230.6 billion by 2028.

It's now common to see YouTube kidfluencers marketing toys to other kids through toy "reviews". But these videos aren't the same as traditional product reviews. They're mash-ups that blur the lines between three major genres: reviews, branded content and entertainment.

The most popular toy review channels have millions of subscribers, and their hosts are some of YouTube's top earners. Ryan's World is probably the most well-known channel in this genre. Conservative estimates suggest 10-year-old Ryan Kanji's family earns about US$25 million each year.

Instakids are on the rise

Apart from YouTube (now more popular among kids than television), a significant number of kids and teens are also spending time on Instagram.

According to a 2021 report by child protection organisation Thorn, about 40% of children under age 13 (out of some 750 interviewed) said they'd used Instagram. This is despite the platform ostensibly only being for people aged 13 and older.

For our latest research, we analysed the Instagram accounts of two Australian influencer siblings to better understand the nature of child-to-child marketing in 2023.

Pixie Curtis, age 11, started her online toy store Pixie's Pix during covid, when toy sales rose globally. This came after initial success selling hair bows through Pixie's Bows, a business managed by her mother, PR entrepreneur and reality TV personality Roxy Jacenko.

Pixie's Instagram account (which has about 136,000 followers), and her brother Hunter's (20,000 followers), have been used to promote Pixie's Pix toys as well as other brands and products. And although Pixie recently "retired" from the toy shop business, she continues to promote products, including her original line of hair bows and other brands' skincare and beauty products.

Our research identifies key areas of concern, including

- a lack of online privacy for kidfluencers, who have many aspects of their lives publicised online
- the commodification of children, and the enabling of a culture geared at up-selling them products and services
- the gendered marketing of toys and an increased focus on appearance for girls (which can be harmful for their self-esteem)
- the "stealth" marketing of toys and other products through advertorials.

Regulation is needed

So far, the French government appears to be the only one that has taken tangible action to regulate the labour of child social media influencers. Under French law, children below age 16 can only work limited hours, and their earnings must be safeguarded in an account made accessible when they turn 16. In the US, the Coogan Act (named after child star Jackie Coogan) was signed into law in 1939 to regulate child labour in the entertainment industry, but no equivalent laws have been enacted for child social media stars.

Nonetheless, the problems surrounding kidfluencing are starting to gain attention around the world. Last year a UK House of Commons report investigated the implications of influencers targeting children with advertorials, especially those that provide little to no disclosure of the post being an ad. The committee made several recommendations, including promoting young people's social media literacy, developing a code of conduct for influencer marketing, and strengthening the powers of the UK's Advertising Standards Authority and Competition and Markets Authority.

As a result, the UK's Department for Education is now "open to exploring legislative ways of improving employment protection for child influencers".

Consequences

In January, Meta (the parent company of Facebook and Instagram) held its first Summit on Youth Safety and Wellbeing. It might be trying to get on the front foot as regulators continue to scrutinise platforms on issues relevant to young people's social media use.

But regulating in the kidfluencer space won't be easy. In March, Utah introduced laws to stop children under 18 having access to social media without parents' explicit consent – but critics have pointed out the potential negative consequences.

Teens use social media for important connections, including with friends and online support groups. Vulnerable teens may become isolated without online support from their peers. Beyond that, social media provide kids with a sense of enjoyment and identity. Taking this away could do more harm than good.

More work is needed to determine what effective regulation would look like. While parents and educators have a role to play to increase children's social media literacy, digital platforms and businesses should also step up.

(By Catherine Jane Archer, Edith Cowan University and Kate Delmo, University of Technology Sydney for The Conversation)

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

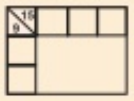
I've been married for 15 years and I'd say the relationship is finally in a good place. However, about eight years ago, my husband had an affair with a woman he met through a club. When I found out about it through a friend, it sparked a total crisis. I asked him to leave, which he did, and we were apart for about six months.
We had counselling and got back together and he came home. In a funny way, the affair made our relationship better in that we both realised what we had to lose and my husband made a huge effort to change himself and make things right. Things have been good since we reconciled.
But I've been thinking about his affair a lot and I can't work out why. Other than in counselling sessions, we never talked much about the affair at the time. We're both 47 and I know my husband won't want to rake it all up again. Please advise.

COLEEN SAYS

Knowing your husband felt something beyond physical attraction for this woman is going to hurt.
And maybe that's the bit that felt too hard to address in counselling or talk about at home, so you have been left with questions.
And now your relationship is good, these insecurities are resurfacing – it's like you're expecting something will sabotage you being happy.
So, even though he might not be keen to talk about the affair, I think it's important to do so. It's not about raking things up, it's just being honest about how you're feeling.
Being completely honest is important and should be ongoing. Although he's made a big effort to redeem himself and do better, maybe he was also too keen to move on quickly, leaving you still looking for answers.
If things are good between you, there's no reason this will undo eight years of effort and positivity. Good luck.
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

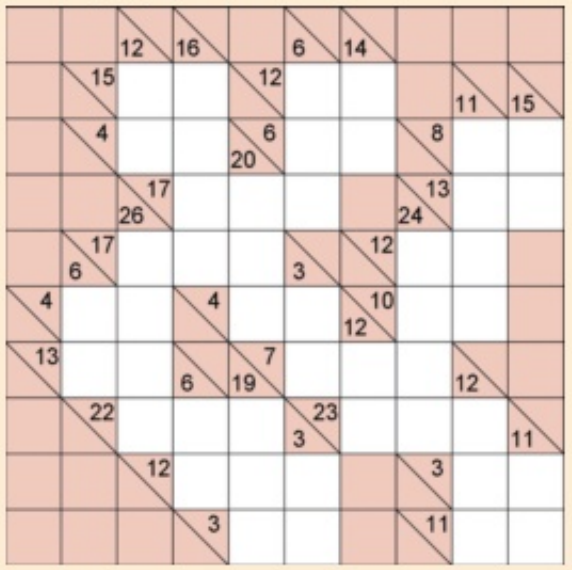
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

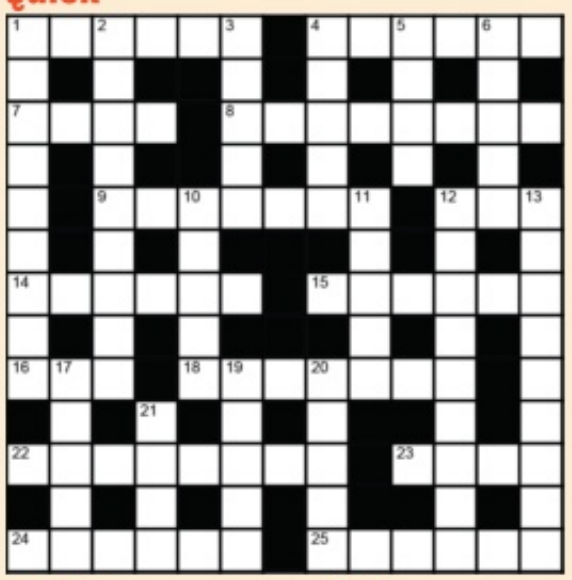


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Mountain in eastern Turkey (6)
4 From that place (6)
7 Knobs or protuberances (4)
8 One day in the future? (8)
9 Attorneys (7)
12 Slow run (3)
14 Race contestant (6)
15 Gorge in the American west (6)
16 Dwight (3)
18 Russian government's Moscow citadel (7)
22 Deerskin shoe (8)
23 Prefix meaning "fire" (4)
24 Harden, turn into bone (6)
25 Looking glass (6)

DOWN

1 C.N. ___ : founder of DMK? (9)
2 Hospital vehicle (9)
3 Very appetising (5)
4 Indonesian island (5)
5 You too in Latin (2,2)
6 A small jazz band (5)
10 Ruin (5)
11 Booth in a fair (5)
12 Area home to the City Central Library (9)
13 Venetian boatman (9)
17 Is aware of (5)
19 Hazardous (5)
20 Musical note (5)
21 202 in Roman numerals (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS U

OPL MLNF LKKLTYL VB ILX-CLNKPGQ GK OPXO FVE PXML OV PXML X MGKGVT.

Linemaro

Within you I lose myself,
Without you I find
myself wanting to be
lost again

Mindchow

It's a job that's never started that takes the longest to finish

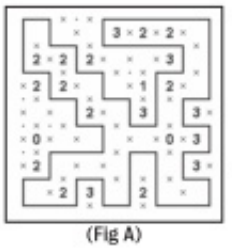
Joke of the day

Teacher: Who succeeded the first President of the US?
Student: The second one

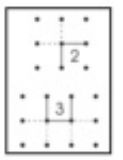
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



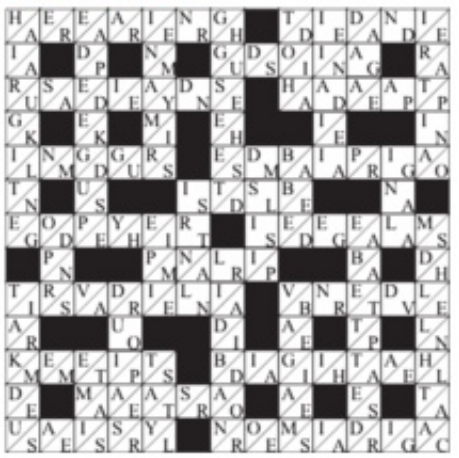
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

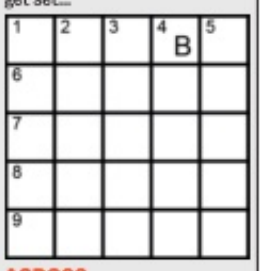
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

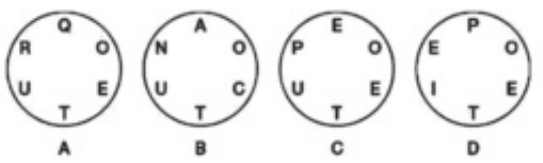
1 Babs L; 6 Ameer; 7 Or nip; 8 Tange; 9 De Dog

DOWN

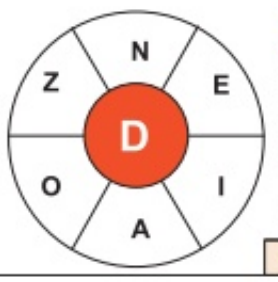
1 Dobra; 2 Or gal; 3 Pad me; 4 Begin; 5 Tense

Mensapuzzle

Which circle cannot be made into a word?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

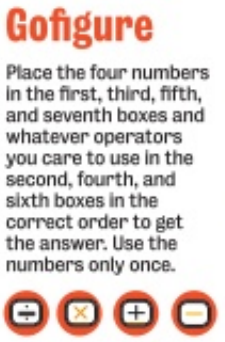
SudokuChallenge

9				4				
	3			5	9			
	1	4	8					2
	5					8		
		1	9		4	5		
		8					3	
7					2	4	6	
			5	9			8	
				6				1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 11
1 1 2 8

Medium = 28
4 6 9 9

Hard = 5
2 7 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

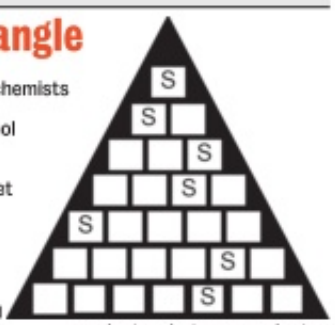
Differences: 1. Dog's leg is moved. 2. Puddle is smaller. 3. Car tire is not showing. 4. Leash is missing. 5. Leaves are missing. 6. Dog's ear is lower.

Riddler

The alley's not dark, it's well-lit. I had to get shoes and they fit. I'm gonna stay and play a bit And try to make another hit. I put my hand in, like a mitt, Send it off and it doesn't quit, Knocks things over-all, or a bit, Then it's sent back, lickety-split. Then someone else's turn, I sit. What is this place of which I've writ?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Selenium for the chemists
3 Legal thing
4 Lancastrian symbol
5 Promised
6 Sleep a little
7 Surfed the Internet



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I GOT A MERIT BADGE IN SCOUTS TODAY FOR BEING ABLE TO IDENTIFY ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF WOOD
REALLY? SHOW ME HOW YOU DID IT, POKEY
DID YOU EVER GET THE FEELING YOU WERE BEING SUCKERED, BUT COULDN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT HOW?

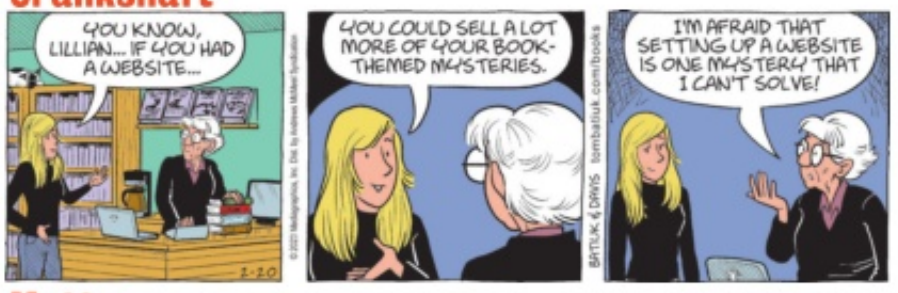
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

PRETTY UNIQUE THONG, HOWARD
GRACIAS!
I MADE IT MYSELF... IT'S ARTIFICIAL TURF!
WHERE'D YOU GET THE MATERIAL?
I SHOT A PUTT-PUTT COURSE!

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


YOU KNOW, LILLIAN... IF YOU HAD A WEBSITE...
YOU COULD SELL A LOT MORE OF YOUR BOOK-THEMED MYSTERIES.
I'M AFRAID THAT SETTING UP A WEBSITE IS ONE MYSTERY THAT I CAN'T SOLVE!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by elders, which may help you come out of a state of confusion. You may use your wisdom to save your hard-earned money. You may spend money on worthwhile things. Students may hear some good news in terms of academics. You are likely to develop healthy relations with your spouse, and there is expected to be some progress in terms of family harmony.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, till late evening, you may not feel good. You may have anxiety and restlessness, which may make you arrogant and affect your domestic life. Your speed may slow down, affecting your professional life, but somehow you may come out of this messy situation with the help of blessings. In the late evening, things may be under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your performance at work may be praised by your boss, and you may expect some promotions. Your opponents are under control now. Singles may fall in love in their workplace. Students are likely to find good friends. Natives related to artifacts, fashion, glamour, and interior may perform better.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may meet some influential person who may help you in business in terms of business expansion. Your internal power may help you make difficult decisions in your professional life. You may start some new ventures with your friends or siblings. It is advised to read documents carefully before signing any contract.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are likely to be busy with your kids' education and career. You may hear some good news in terms of your kids' academics, but love birds are advised to keep patience in terms of their relationships. Investors are advised to avoid investing in risky assets as they might convert into dead investments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place. It is advised to think twice before making decisions regarding migration. There will be peace in your mind, but your kids' health might upset you. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments. Love birds shall keep patience before taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have good patience, and meditation may help you increase concentration, which will speed up your project. Your colleagues may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project before time. There may be some short travels related to work. An influential person may help you boost your network.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may implement some new plans into your family business, which will pay off in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social gatherings. You may spend money to buy some creative artifacts to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. Today, you may be careful with teeth, ears, eyes, nose, and skin issues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health, and you may enjoy your work. Today, your challenge is to avoid straightness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. If you are able to control your tongue, then you may expect healthy partnerships in business and harmony in the family. Job seekers may find a suitable job, and love birds are advised to avoid discussing worthless topics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your vital power may slow down and old diseases may reappear, making you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of litigation, and you may settle it out of court. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may get profits from your past investments and your losses may convert into gains. Implementation of new ideas may give progress in your business. You are likely to succeed easily, and you may meet an influential person who can show you the right path to success. Love birds may make some decisions regarding marriage, and couples will hear good news in terms of kids. Job seekers will find a suitable job.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your family and spouse will support you, which will create an increase in domestic harmony. Due to workload at work, you may not be able to give proper time to your family, so try to make time for a family get-together. You are expected to see a strong position in your professional front, and projects related to government agencies are likely to initiate now.

KIDZONE

P Rishika, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Asmi Sarang Dinkar, 6 Years, Vibgyor

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$5^2 + 20^2 = 7^2 (-7)$
$5^2 + 20^2 = 7 (0)$
$25 + 0 = 25$

RIDDLER
A bowling alley.

QUOTE UNCODE
The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision.

FAST FIVE

B	L	A	B	S
A	G	E	N	T
O	R	P	I	N
R	A	M	E	E
D	O	O	D	G

BULL'S EYE
adze, aide, anode, ANODIZE, daze, dean, dine, done, doze, dozen, idea, node, zoned

STRIKE OUT

S	A	S	S	Y		N	O	M	A	D	I	C		
K	E	E	P	S		D	I	G	I	T	A	L		
A		O		I		E		T		L				
T	S	A	R	I	N	A		B	R	E	V	E		
	K	E		K	R	E	M	L	I	N				
A		C				L				A		D		
R	U	N	N	E	R		C	A	N	Y	O	N		
	N				A					T		O		
G	O	P	H	E	R		I	D	E	A	L	S		
	N				D	L	E			A				
I	N	D	U	S		E	M	B	A	R	G	O		
K		E		M		H		I			N			
H	E	A	R	I	N	G		D	I	A	N	E		
R	A	D	I	A	N	S		A	D	A	P	T		
A	D	N		U	S	I	N	G		A				

QUICK

A	R	A	R	A	T		T	H	E	N	C	E		
	M		A		T		T		O					
N		U		S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E			
	W		I		K		I		A					
M	O	C	A	S	I	N		I	G	N	I			
	N		C		I				A		L			
I	K	E		K	R	E	M	L	I	N		O		
A		C				L				A		D		
R	U	N	N	E	R		C	A	N	Y	O	N		
	N		A		R			T		A		O		
D		L	A	W	Y	E	R	S		J	O	G		
A		U		T		O		U		B				
N	U	B	S		S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E		
A	R	A	R	O		M	I	R	R	O	R			
O	S	S	I	F	Y		M	I	R	R	O	R		

MENSA PUZZLE
D. The others are: a. torque, b. toucan, c. toupee.

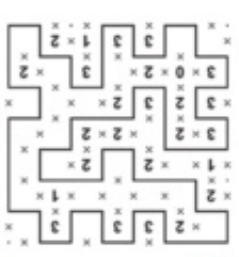
SUDOKU

5	2	3	4	6	8	7	9	1
1	4	6	5	9	7	2	8	3
7	8	9	3	1	2	4	6	5
4	9	8	7	2	5	1	3	6
3	6	1	9	8	4	5	2	7
2	5	7	6	3	1	8	4	9
6	1	4	8	7	3	9	5	2
8	3	2	1	5	9	6	7	4
9	7	5	2	4	6	3	1	8

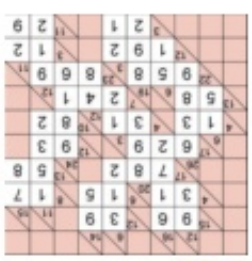
GO FIGURE
Easy
$8 + 2 + 1 \times 1 = 11$
Medium
$4 + 9 + 9 + 6 = 28$
Hard
$7 + 5 + 2 - 7 = 5$

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Se, Res, Rose, Swore, Drowse, Browsed.

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Salman's favourite
Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is a Marvel fan and his favourite character is Groot going by his recent post for the 'Guardian Of The Galaxy Volume 3'

CATS & PEARLS

How celebs made the most of spirit of Lagerfeld at Met Gala

Rihanna shut down the Met Gala carpet Monday encased in white camellias on a jacket with a long train gown. Janelle Monáe dropped a bulky coat to reveal a see-through cage and Jeremy Pope walked in a 32-foot cape emblazoned with the visage of Karl Lagerfeld.

In the spirit of Lagerfeld himself (he was not often on time), Rihanna and her Valentino couture had the carpet to themselves save her partner, A$AP Rocky, who wore a red tartan skirt over crystal-studded jeans with a train of his own. They showed up well past everyone else.

Lagerfeld was the honouree at the A-list gala with many in the crowd of about 400 dressed in vintage looks from the fashion houses where he worked during a career of more than 60 years.

But elegant wasn't entirely the hallmark of the evening. Jared Leto dressed as Choupette, Lagerfeld's beloved fluffy cat. Lil Nas X went full cat covered in crystals by Pat McGrath and Dior Men.

Bad Bunny showed up late in bright white from head to toe with a long cape also adorned with camellias, a Coco Chanel motif embraced by Lagerfeld. Monáe's look, with a black sparkly leotard underneath, was made by Thom Browne.

Cardi B first donned pink then switched to a full black ballgown with, you guessed it, camellias. Up top, she said, "is giving Karl, the house of Chanel and Karl at the same time." It was a men's white collar shirt accent with a black men's tie. The outfit in honor of Lagerfeld was done by an up-and-coming British design house, Chenpeng Studio.

"The Met Gala dress code was in honour of Karl' and guests definitely understood the assignment," said Alison Cohn, deputy fashion news editor for Harper's Bazaar. "They referenced the many signatures Karl Lagerfeld developed over his six-decade plus career."

Dua Lipa walked in a white Chanel ballgown from the fashion house's archive and Nicole Kidman chose a look Lagerfeld himself made for her 20 years ago.

And there were some bombshells: Serena Williams wore a flapper Gucci look when she announced she's pregnant with her second child.

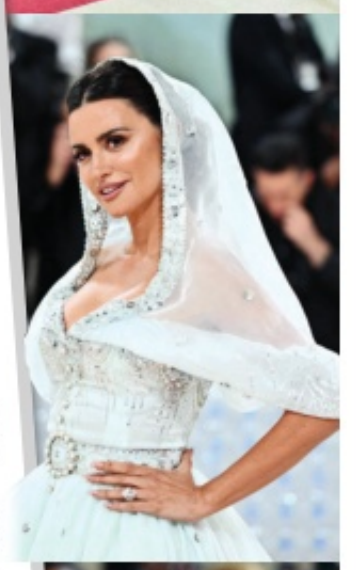
Indian star Alia Bhatt also opted for in an ivory ball gown embellished with 100,000 pearls hand beaded in India, inspired by Schiffer's iconic dress. For her debut appearance at the gala, she wore a Prabal Gurung creation.

Kristen Stewart wore the color duo in a suit with a cropped white jacket. And Cara Delevingne honored her old friend Lagerfeld with a ruffled white shirt look short in front with a train at the back. Ruffled shirts were among Lagerfeld's favorites.

The classic colors weren't for Viola Davis. She walked in a stunning neon pink strapless gown with long feathers at the bodice.

Rita Ora was also in black, a stunner of a peekaboo sheer look from Prabal Gurung.

—AP



PC's necklace worth as much as IPL team

Actress Priyanka Chopra, who walked the Met Gala carpet with her husband Nick Jonas, sported a diamond necklace worth Rs 204 crore.

The 11.6 carat diamond statement piece from Bulgari has a Laguna Blu diamond – the largest in Bulgari – perfectly complementing her sexy black gown with thigh-high slit from fashion designer, Valentino.

Priyanka and Nick Jonas opted for the colour black for their appearance. The theme was 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty', and the dress code was in honour of the late fashion designer, who was the creative mind behind Chanel from 1983 till his death in 2019.

The statement piece is said to go to auction at Sotheby's Luxury Week in Geneva on May 12. —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From TV to theatres

Vinu Balanja is all set to join the list of TV serial directors who became movie directors. Shooting for his film Bera is over and the makers are aiming to release it by the end of this month. Diwakar Dasa has bankrolled this movie under the SLV Colours banner. The teaser of Bera was released on Friday at Renukamba Preview Theater at Malleswaram.

"I have been away from the small screen for five years due to personal reasons. A visit to a museum prompted me to write the script for this movie. Diwakar Dasa encouraged me to direct this movie. Bera means business and its story is about how innocent people are being exploited by greedy and corrupt politicians. The message of this movie is that no innocent person should die for the politicians," said Vinu.

The director said Bera has no hero or heroine but all the characters in the movie are important.

New role

Meet Pawan Kumar who debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Dheera Samrat. Pawan Kumar worked as an anchor at a TV channel for more than 15 years. Now, he not only wrote the script but also directed the film. He is also playing the role of the baddie in this film. The film's shooting is completed and a song of the movie was released by Dhruva Sarja at Chamundeshwari Studios on Sunday.

Thanking Dhruva Sarja for releasing the song – En Chanda Kaanisthavale, Pawan Kumar called him an altruistic person. "Dheera Samrat is a family film, belonging to the suspense thriller genre. The movie revolves around the friendship of five youths. The movie begins on a happy note but becomes an edge-of-the-seat thriller," said Pawan Kumar.

He said Rakesh Biradar and Advithi Shetty are the lead pair in this movie. Dhruva Sarja said Pawan Kumar is his friend. "He was among those who encouraged me from the beginning. I used to pressurise him to telecast news about my movie. It is our responsibility to encourage newcomers in the film industry," Sarja said.